**WEDNESDAY MARCH 09 – FIRST WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.**

**In Niniveh, Jonah performed no sign. He just said very few words: "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed." Through these words, the entire town converted. It abandoned its evil conduct. Here is what the Scripture of the Queen of Sheba narrates, instead: “The queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon's fame, came to test him with subtle questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a very numerous retinue, and with camels bearing spices, a large amount of gold, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and questioned him on every subject in which she was interested. King Solomon explained everything she asked about, and there remained nothing hidden from him that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba witnessed Solomon's great wisdom, the palace he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his ministers, the attendance and garb of his waiters, his banquet service, and the holocausts he offered in the temple of the LORD, she was breathless. "The report I heard in my country about your deeds and your wisdom is true," she told the king. "Though I did not believe the report until I came and saw with my own eyes, I have discovered that they were not telling me the half. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report I heard. Happy are your men, happy these servants of yours, who stand before you always and listen to your wisdom. Blessed be the LORD, your God, whom it has pleased to place you on the throne of Israel. In his enduring love for Israel, the LORD has made you king to carry out judgment and justice." (1Kg 10, 1-9) Neither Salomon performed any sign or miracle. He has only spoken. Yet the Queen of Sheba took a long journey to listen to the wisdom of Salomon. Before such light, she was speechless.**

**Jesus comes. He is the Wisdom and the eternal Light who made himself flesh. He is also the divine Almightiness with which He performs miracles, signs, unnumbered mighty deeds. Yet the generation living at the time of Jesus asks Him for an unmistakable sign attesting that He is really the Messiah of the Lord. It is a truth everyone should know: one does not come to faith through signs. Instead, one comes through the way of the Word of God that is fulfilled in our history. Every Word uttered by Jesus was fulfilled. The fulfilment of the Word attests that He is truly sent by God to bring us the Word of God, so that everyone converts to it. Jonah had an entire town converted with the Word of God. Salomon attracts through the numerous signs and miracles he performs, but there is no conversion to his Word. One accepts miracles. One seeks them. But one does not convert to his Word. Rather, one asks a sign attesting that He is truly by God. Jesus gives no signs. His presence is a sign. His Word is a sign. All his works are a sign. Whoever is of good will might convert. Whoever is not of good will, no sign will never move him from his non-faith or from his incredulity.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 11,29-32**

**While still more people gathered in the crowd, he said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.**

**Today Jesus highlights a truth that must be well understood. The judgement of the Lord will be celebrated for us according to the measure of the gifts He has bestowed on us. A Christian will be judged as a Christian. A pagan as a pagan. One to whom no one has preached Christ Jesus as one who could never have known his Saviour and Redeemer. The more grace one receives by the Lord and the more rigorous the judgement of our God will be. Once in the texts of Ascetic, one used to read that a baptised enters the kingdom of heaven through a rather large way. This way begins to narrow for a confirmed. For a deacon, it becomes a path, often cramped, too. For a presbyter, the gate is so narrowed that one even succeeds in passing. For a bishop, it is closed entirely and just some fissures remain. A pope has to enter through locked gates. For him there will be no fissure. This means that the judgement is in the measure of our responsibility before the world and of the mission and consequently of the grace that was given to us. However, today this old view is rejected. Not only is there no different judgement for each person, in the measure of his minister, of his gifts of grace and of truth. There is not even the judgement anymore. This means that by now the Gospel, the Holy Scripture, the sound Doctrine is no longer part of the faith of the Christian. Everything was replaced by falsity and by lie. Building up a religion on falsity is condemning oneself to darkness with no return. Mother of God, come to our rescue. Do not let falsity pollute our most pure faith.**